

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
REMOTE ONLINE MEETING MINUTES**May 20th, 2021, 7 PM

Approved 6-3-2021

Present: Raina McManus, Chair; Laura Robert, Vice Chair; Jay McHale; Allison Burson; Bea Bezmalinovic; Brandon Schmitt, Director

Absent:

Guests: Bob Parks, Lighting Consultant;

Public Speak: Martha Collins called in to request that the Board provides to the public the amount of carbon increase that would be projected for the years 2030, 2040, and 2050 as a result from lighting being installed at Hunnewell's Track and Field.

Action/Discussion Items:

- **Recognition: Miguel Lessing, Trails Committee** The Board acknowledged and thanked Miguel for his time on the Trails Committee and wished him the best with his future endeavors.
- **Hunnewell Field Lighting Report – Bob Parks, Consultant** Ms. McManus and Mr. Schmitt reminded why the NRC hired a lighting consultant. Bob Parks presented slides of his findings of the Hunnewell Field Lighting Report. Bob's presentation highlighted lighting options and each option's impacts at both the Diane P. Warren Multipurpose Field/tennis courts and the Hunnewell Track and Field. A question came in from the public asking how much CO2 would be emitted with the addition of lights at the track, and what the NRC plans on doing to help remediate it. Bob shared that within his report there is a Q&A section that answers this, and the answer will ultimately be an extrapolated figure. Another question came in regarding the cost of labor. This figure has not been found yet and proposals would be asked for as the project moves forward. There is a year-old estimate that outlines the cost to be between \$25,000 - \$30,000 per field. Ms. Burson asked for a cost estimate of operating the lights per year. Bob explained the for the multipurpose field, the warranty has expired on the existing fixtures, and therefore maintenance would cost approximately \$56,000 over the course of 25 years. For the track, there is a 25 year warranty for the new fixtures that includes everything. Another question from the chat was read, asking what the impact of lighting would be on the neighboring trees, wildlife, and wetlands. Bob answered by saying it is hard to analyze as there many factors to analyze. He did mention that any light introduction would have an adverse impact, though the significance is hard to measure. The trees will most likely take the highest impact as the light poles are among the trees. The more night light will change the pattern of leaf drop/regrowth. There will also be an impact on invertebrates, who are attracted to lights. Another question came from the chat asking if the pole height at the multipurpose field could be reduced. Bob explained the reason for having the poles at the heights they are at. Ms. McManus asked if the lights if retrofitted would come with dimmers; yes they would. More questions were asked and it is expected that there will be more to come. Next steps will be taken up at a future meeting. Ms. McManus asked the rest of the Board to think of what possible next steps could be in the

meantime. She also shared upcoming School Committee events regarding the lights: an abutters & neighbors Zoom meeting, Thursday May 27th at 7 PM, a community forum via Zoom on Wednesday June 2nd at 7 PM, and the Newton South High School viewing of their newly installed lights, where it is best to visit around 8:30 PM.

- **Gift Approval - Bench at Brown Park: Meekins Family** The gift of a bench from the Meekins Family is requested to be installed at Brown Park. Mr. McHale recommended this request go by the Recreation Department as the proposed location could be subject to be hit by a foul ball. Ms. Bezmalinovic also mentioned that the proposed area receives little shade meaning during the hot days it may be located in an unfavorable spot. *A motion was made and seconded to approve the acceptance of a bench donation at Brown Park to honor the Meekins family. The motion was approved 5-0.*
- **Letter to Massachusetts Department of Public Health: Mosquito Control – Review and Vote** Ms. McManus drafted a letter for the state’s Mosquito Task Force, as they asked for public comments. Wellesley focuses on controlling larvae, not adult mosquitos. *A motion was made and seconded to approve the sending of the letter dated May 21, 2021 to the state’s Mosquito Control Task Force to request a mosquito control policy that uses effective and ecological methods. The motion was approved 5-0.* The letter will be posted on the NRC website.
- **Climate Emergency** Ms. McManus shared an article regarding what plants to save and what not to. The article is posted on the NRC Website.
- **Pollinator Habitat Project: Pollinate Wellesley** Ms. Bezmalinovic shared that the three-video series was a success. There are needs to discuss what to plan next and work towards having a successful pollinator week. The NRC staff is also working on assembling free pollinator plant kits in return for data on the pollinators that are visiting the kit.
- **Review and Possible Vote on Permit Requests:**
 - Powder Puff Game Sound: Hunnewell Track and Field** The applicant requested the use of a sound system to play music and have amplified sound at the scheduled Powder Puff Game at Hunnewell Track and Field on June 7th. This event has not had amplified sound in the past. Ms. Robert brought up the policy and it was designed for the wellbeing of the community. Ms. Bezmalinovic asked more about sound requests in general, and mentioned that the time of the game and duration of music playing are missing pieces of information. *A motion was made and seconded to permit the use of amplified sound at Hunnewell Track and Field at the Powder Puff Game. The motion was denied 0-3. Ms. Bezmalinovic and Mr. McHale abstained.*

Liaison Reports:

Playing Fields Task Force: Ms. Burson shared that Babson pulled out of being able to host summer sports. There is a shortage of fields this year, meaning it will be another year of struggling to balance equal usage of the field. The PFTF is still working on figuring out a more effective way on equally distributing field usage.

Mobility Committee: There was an update on plans for the Complete Streets project on Walnut Street to allow for safer street crossings.

Trails: Flower boxes were installed on the bridge over the Charles River by Waterstone. Waterstone will be caring for these boxes. There is still work on connecting trails and working on Centennial.

Director’s Report:

- **Project Updates: Charles River Climate Compact, Open Space and Recreation Plan, Climate Action** Mr. Schmitt updated that the Charles River Climate Compact had a few meetings in May. Mr. Schmitt had a discussion with the Open Space and Recreation Plan consultant and there is concern about the goals and objectives from the prior plan that have become fragmented, as there are asks for individual practices. The focus for now should be more about the broad objective and goals and the community workshop would be a more appropriate time to hear individual practice comments. There are hopes to have a draft survey ready for next week. Mr. Schmitt mentioned he is a part of the Climate Action Plan where he will be attending their event on June 17th. There will be more to share about this on a later date.
- **Natural Gas Pipeline License in Town Forest: Enbridge/Algonquin** Mr. Schmitt shared that the natural gas transition line goes through the Town forest and Longfellow pond. Last year the pipe was investigated for disturbances and anomalies as permitted by the NRC. A similar request was submitted to the NRC this year. They have offered a mitigation gift again this year for any damage to the forest. The Board should think about and discuss what they would like the license agreement to look like regarding mitigation. They have proposed removing between 4-15 trees and creating a footpath. The Board is requesting to hear what the official proposed work will be sooner rather than later.

Approve Minutes

After a motion was made and seconded, the Board approved the meeting minutes for 5/6/2021 with a 4-0 vote. Allison was absent during the vote.

Schedule Future Meetings:

N/A

Urgent Items Not Anticipated Prior to 48-hours of Posting:

N/A

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 PM

*Respectfully submitted,
Leah Wallner, NRC Clerk*